

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 05792 301201Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-07 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06
/033 W

-----038660 310051Z /70

R 301141Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1681
INFO AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS ROME 5792

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: OREP (RYAN, LEO. J.)
SUBJ: CODEL RYAN: WRAP-UP

1. DESPITE THE BREVITY OF ITS STAY IN ROME, CODEL RYAN HAD A USEFUL DISCUSSION OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SCENE WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND SENIOR EMBASSY STAFF, AND A PRODUCTIVE INTERCHANGE ON PROBLEMS WITHIN NATO'S SOUTHERN REGION WITH THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AFSOUTH, ADMIRAL SHEAR.

2. AMBASSADOR OUTLINED POLICY TOWARDS ITALY, STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE THAT POLICY ACCORDS ITALY'S CONTINUED FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE WEST AND IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. HE HIGHLIGHTED THE MISSION'S ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE USG'S "STRATEGY OF COOPERATION" TO ASSIST ITALY IN HER ORIENTATION AND PARTICIPATION. FINALLY, HE COMMENTED ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RECENT INCLUSION OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE GOI'S PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY.

3. ADMIRAL SHEAR SKETCHED THE SIZE AND GEOGRAPHICAL COMPLEXITY OF NATO'S SOUTHERN REGION, POINTED OUT ITS EFFECTIVE ISOLATION FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, AND REMARKED THE POLITICAL CONFLICTS AND AMBIGUITIES WHICH CHARACTERIZE IT. BOTH ADMIRAL SHEAR AND CODEL MEMBERS DISCUSSED THE HARMFUL
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EFFECTS THE GREEK-TURKISH CONFRONTATION HAS ON THE STRENGTH AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE, AND ON US BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH BOTH NATIONS. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ASKED PERCEPTIVE QUESTIONS ON THIS ISSUE AND GAVE THE EMBASSY THEIR CANDID VIEWS ON ITS US DOMESTIC RAMIFICATIONS.

4. EMBASSY APPRECIATED THE CODEL'S VISIT TO ROME AND PAR-

TICULARLY ITS COOPERATION IN MEETING THE DEMANDS IMPOSED BY
A TIGHT SCHEDULE.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME05792
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780139-0273
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978038/aaaaagmm.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7ad518c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3364816
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL RYAN: WRAP-UP
TAGS: OREP, (RYAN, LEO J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7ad518c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014